

# Ellipsis

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## (as if only we've come back again)

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**(as if only we've come back again)**  
**by Michelle Antoinette**

... found bleeding into a swarm, a step away from a pit—empty  
tuna cans and condom wraps or to build a fire

ask for this  
Secret Crick

a lip-locked slither prying mountains' gritty fold, dragging mountain down to this twice  
-told shore, a dam, poise in the tented pitch

—listen slept on splintered ground  
when we woke. This

was how     the river                         broke.

When the copperhead, when the meadow bows, slip  
into this handsewn skirt of ivory and sunset and lapis lazuli  
and we'll cross the tributary by foot